

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20

STR-08 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /186 W

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R 070900Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5516

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A (DECLAS AFTER ONE YEAR)

TAGS: EAGR, MT, LY

SUBJ: MALTA-LIBYA LINKS

REF: VALLETTA 740

1. MAY 5 EDITION ENGLISH LANGUAGE MEDITERRANEAN NEWS
(INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR LIBYAN MARKET) REPORTS ON
EXCHANGE BETWEEN SPEAKER OF MALTESE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES EMANUEL ATTARD BEZZINA, AND LIBYAN
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE MOHAMED ALI TABOU, FOLLOWING
VISITS TO RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO MEDITERRANEAN
NEWS, ATTARD BEZZINA SAID DESPITE HISTORICAL LINKS
WITH EUROPE, THE MALTESE PEOPLE "ARE POLITICALLY
AND ECONOMICALLY BOUND WITH THE POLICY AND EVENTS
OF THE ARAB AREA, INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF PALESTINE
AND THE SURROUNDING TERRITORIES." BEZZINA REPORTEDLY
ADDED "OUR PEOPLE SPEAK ARABIC AND THIS IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT FACTOR LINKING US WITH ARAB COUNTRIES,
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HISTORICALLY AND POLITICALLY."

2. IN AOTHER ARGICLE IN SAME ISSUE MEDITERRANEAN NEWS, DR. JOHN BUTTIGIEG, LABOR MP AND SON OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, WHO RECENTLY VISITED LARG, REPORTS THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION IS BEING PAID TO MALTA(BY LIBYA) AS FAR AS THE MEDITERRANEAN IS CONCERNED.

3. DURING TABOU'S RECENT VISIT (SEE REFTTEL) HE WAS PREVAILED UPON BY MINISTER FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM PAUL XUEREB TO FURNISH MALTA WITH SEEDS AND ORNAMENTAL AND FRUIT SAPPLINGS FOR MALTA'S AFFORESTATION PROGRAM AS WELL AS A GIFT OF SOME BERBERA FAT TAILED SHEEP FOR AN EXPERIMENTAL SHEEP RAISING STATION. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THEY ARE INTERESTED IN INTRODUCING THE LIBYAN BREED IN MALTA WITH A VIEW FOR FUTURE EXPORTS TO NORTH AFRICA. IN VIEW OF THE SHORTAGE OF FORAGE AND FODDER IN MALTA, THE SHEEP EXPERIMENT SEEMS A RATHER DOUBTFUL PROJECT DESPITE THE LIBYAN GENEROSITY.GETZ

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